



Watertown and Sioux City line crews replaced damaged structures on the Bristol-Summit 115-kV line crossing Rush Lake from a barge. (Photos by Pat Doak)

UGP line crews barge into work

Watertown and Sioux City line crews recently replaced damaged structures where the Bristol-Summit 115-kV line crosses a greatly expanded Rush Lake northwest of Waubay, S.D. This sounds like routine work, except it was performed from a barge.

Teams from the South Dakota Maintenance Office; UGP Construction, Maintenance Engineering and Safety; Industrial Builders Inc. of Fargo, N.D.; Western's

Sioux City line crew; and Corporate Services Office worked to complete the project. After installing wood dead ends on each side of the damaged section, the team removed falling and leaning structures, conductors and overhead ground wires.

Crews poured seven concrete footings and assembled and erected single steel poles onto the footings, and then strung new conductors and overhead ground wires.

Watertown Lineforeman **Brian Pieper** described the details of the project:

"Poles were hauled to the Rush Lake material yard. Arms and ladders were bolted to the poles and hauled from the material yard to the water on a front-end loader. IB's crane operator picked them up on shore.

"A tugboat pushed a barge with a crane and pole to the site and spotted it. The tug returned for another barge with the man-lift and took it to the site. Two Watertown linemen were on the footing when the crane operator raised the pole off the barge, setting it on the footing to be bolted. Once bolted, the men on the man-lift took the rigging off the pole and hung travelers (conductor stringing sheaves) and p-line (a 3/8-inch rope)," Pieper said.

Pieper added, "Industrial Builders can be proud of their crew on the Rush Lake Project. They were extremely knowledgeable and efficient, and above all, worked very safely."

Western's Sioux City line crew helped the Watertown crew complete the stringing and clipping. 🛠️

A crane and manlift were transported by barge to the construction site on Rush Lake, where Watertown and Sioux City line crews partnered with Industrial Builders Inc. and others to replace damaged structures recently.